

# THE COST OF THE NATIONAL GAME IN THIS COUNTRY

Not Less than Five Million Dollars are Spent Every Season in Furnishing Sport for the Great American "Fans."

From New York to San Francisco and from Chicago to Mexico—on these "cross-country" journeys squads of baseball players set out a few weeks ago, merely that they might obtain desirable outdoor practice grounds in the North at this season. One doesn't have to think this over very long to arrive at the conclusion that baseball has been growing up with the country. Millions of dollars and thousands of men are required to furnish this single form of summer afternoon diversion in this broad land each year. The writing of professional baseball in its large aspect as the American national game—and it surely is that—one uses large figures. Figures that are amazingly large when it is considered that they relate to a pastime. Surely the club owners of the country, from bush league to major league, from the strugglers who never can quite dismiss pay day from their minds to the affluent "millionaires" who buy players at \$5,000 and \$10,000 per head in the certainty that the investments will yield big returns—surely these men, taken as a class, are captains of sport.

A suggestion of the magnitude of the baseball business—not much more than a suggestion—is contained in a letter written by John H. Farrell, of Auburn, N. Y., secretary and treasurer of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, in response to a request for information for this article. Mr. Farrell wrote: "Our association's membership includes thirty-two leagues, with an individual club membership of more than two hundred clubs. The players' contracts average four and a half months. This office promulgated more than 4,200 contracts last season. These contracts called for salaries aggregating more than \$600,000 a month. We cover from San Francisco in the West to Manchester in the East, and from New Orleans in the South to Winnipeg in the North."

## Money Paid to Players.

While these figures show that baseball has grown to be a great big national institution, they do not begin to tell the whole story. By them it is seen that thirty-two minor leagues pay out to players in the course of a season the imposing sum of \$2,700,000. But this figure falls far short of covering the salary item, and the club owners have many heavy expenses to meet regularly in addition to the payroll. Mr. Farrell's figures cover only the minor leagues that work under the national agreement, which may be called the constitution of baseball. His total of \$2,700,000 does not include the salaries paid to the players of the great National and American leagues or the players of any of the independent (or outlaws) leagues, of which the Tri-State League was last season the most important. It is full, it may be explained in passing, that the terms "Independent" and "outlaw" indicate point of view. A league that works outside the national agreement is called "independent" by itself and "outlaw" by clubs that work under the national agreement.

The National and American leagues pay out more than \$300,000 a year each to players, and the Tri-State League (last year's champion) pays out \$100,000. Here you have \$700,000 to add to Mr. Farrell's \$2,700,000, giving a total of \$3,400,000 for player salaries. This figure must suffice for this article. It covers the salary item in professional baseball in America. But it doesn't cover by a good many thousands dollars the amount that is paid out each season the country over to baseball players. In all parts of the United States are some leagues, made up together or in part of paid players. The number of these teams and the number of these players it is impossible to determine, but no one who is familiar with baseball in its general aspect will question the estimate that the amount paid to players by detached teams is sufficient to make the grand total of the baseball salary item \$4,000,000 a year.

## Uses of the Gate Receipts.

The average man in the grandstand, who knows little or nothing of the business end of the game, jumps to the conclusion, when he thinks about it at all, that if the gate receipts are sufficient to meet the salary demands of the players twice every month, and leave a little over for running expenses, all is smooth sailing for the club owner. He reads of the big money paid to star players here and there and of the purchase now and then at fancy prices of men whom managers desire to land, but he doesn't naturally enough, he thinks that making good on the payroll is about the only important work of the club owner. But the records of every club show that a lot of money must be raised in addition to that required to pay the players.

Under the heading "expenditures" in every league club's books are two entries that show round sums. One of these is road expenses, and the other is playing ground expenses. The latter item is the expense after the payroll has been cared for. There are many other expenses, of course, such as the assessment that every club must pay to maintain the staff of umpires and its league dues, but these are negligible in comparison with salaries, road expenses and the cost of maintaining playing grounds.

Many a minor league club that could have weathered a season if it were not for the players had been the only large problem to be solved has gone down and out because of the additional item of road expenses. It is a law of league baseball that the hotel bills and railroad fares of the players shall be paid out of the club treasury when the team is on the road. When the team is in its home city the players meet all their own expenses, but on the road they are not called upon to pay out a cent from their own pockets. They are trained to leave their home city until they step out on their return.

## Road Expenses Mount High.

"Six dollars a day for each man just about covers railroad and hotel expenses, and a big league team is on the road about eighty days of each season," said a manager who has had control of two National League teams when he was asked for an estimate of the traveling expenses of a club.

It is seen by this that the traveling expenses of a National League team are more than \$5,000 for a season. The expenses of the professional players for one day are \$102 and eighty days they amount to \$8,160. For the entire league of eight teams the total of traveling expenses reaches the tidy little figure of \$65,280. The expenses of the American League are practically the same. These two major leagues expend more than any other league under this head, of course, because of the longer distances the teams travel in

## RICHMOND BASEBALL TEAM THAT LATER BECAME FAMOUS



The players represented in the picture are: First row, at top—Lever, Stimmell, Elberfeld, Thornton, Elsey, Hargrove, Stewart. Second row—Chesbro, Stockdale, McDonald, Wells. Bottom row—Kain, Schmidt, Foster.

In its series of baseball pictures of earlier days The Times-Dispatch presents to-day the Richmond team of 1907, the first season of the Atlantic League here. In that year the strong Lancaster team took the championship. Manager Wells had some trouble early in the season finding some of his men, and the infield was not as strong as he had wished. Elberfeld played at third, McDonald at short, sometimes at second, and Stewart held down the second bag. He alternated with McDonald sometimes at short. Thornton was at first, although Wells himself played a few games early in the season.

The pitching staff was exceptionally strong, consisting of Leever, Chesbro, Stimmell, Stockdale and Schmidt. In the outfield were Elsey, Hargrove and Kain, and Foster and Wells played in the infield.

"That team was the beginning of the phenomenal aggregations we landed here," said Manager Wells. "We started in with the new great Elberfeld, who was the wonder of the circuit, and it was not long before the big league managers were after him. His work both in the field and at the bat created a sensation in the country. Toward the end of the season we sold him to Philadelphia,

and Dundon succeeded him at third. "Thornton was a heavy and fast man at first base, and hit at a tremendous pace. Stewart and McDonald in the infield were good, but not as strong as we wished. I believe had we been better placed there we would have won the championship the first season. We had the pitchers and the fielders, but were weak inside.

"When Leever first made his appearance with us, he was given a good reception, and he was dubbed 'Schoolmaster.' His hair was long and straggling, his trousers were too short, and his sleeves reached almost to his elbows. He was a funny object, and did not really look like a schoolteacher, but resembled a countryman. The fact is, though, he was both a countryman and a schoolteacher. It didn't take him long to get into city ways, and before he had been here two weeks, he had a suit of clothes the price of which was commensurate with his salary, and he wore a man's hat. His strongest utterance of anger or contentment was 'Gosh,' and he didn't drink a drop of intoxicating fluid. His hitting was amateurish at first, but he soon learned to line the ball out, and it was seldom that he failed to make a hit in a game in which he played.

Leever was a man with lots of sense, and profited by advice and experience. I consider him now one of the most reliable pitchers in the business and because of his regular habits and sunny disposition he will last longer than the average ballplayer.

"Elberfeld was scrappy from the start. He always went in the game to win. I remember the first game we played with Lancaster. Piggy Ward was on first-base, trying to steal. Sam Laroque was at the bat and lined the ball out for two bases. Ward ran around for third-base, the ball went to Hargrove, who fielded it beautifully and threw to Elberfeld to catch Ward. Ward ran like an ice wagon, because of his immense size, but he was fast. Elberfeld saw him coming, and with his miniature figure covered the bag and lay for a block. Ward ran down on him just as the ball reached him from Hargrove. The stocky little third-baseman put all of his weight before the runner, blocked him from the bag and tagged him. In the mix-up Elberfeld was thrown about two yards from the bag and rolled over. He started toward Elberfeld with a wicked twinkle in his eye. Elberfeld got up and resumed his place at the bag. Ward relented in his intention, and he looked down on the victorious Elberfeld, and merely grunted in disgust as

## Cost of Season's League Baseball.

Players' salaries	\$3,400,000
Road expenses	717,000
Grounds	590,000
Umpires	170,000
Spring training	125,000
Managers' salaries	100,000
League organization	75,000
Uniforms	5,000
Balls	35,000
Other expenses	100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,364,000</b>

## Leagues, Clubs and Players.

League	No. of Clubs	Players to Each Club	Players
National League	8	17	136
American League	8	17	136
Eastern League	8	15	120
American Association	8	15	120
Tri-State League	4	14	56
Southern League	8	15	120
Western Association	4	14	56
Western League	6	14	84
New England League	8	15	120
Connecticut League	4	12	48
Central League	8	12	96
Cotton States League	6	12	72
Pacific Coast League	6	12	72
Northwestern League	4	12	48
Interstate League	4	12	48
Ind.-Ill.-Iowa League	8	12	96
Hudson River League	6	12	72
Northern Copper Country League	8	12	96
South Atlantic League	6	12	72
Ohio and Pennsylvania League	8	12	96
Penn.-Ohio-Md. League	8	12	96
New York State League	8	12	96
South Michigan League	6	12	72
Iowa League	8	12	96
Texas League	4	12	48
South Texas League	6	12	72
North Texas League	4	12	48
K.-I.-T. League	6	12	72
W.-I.-T. Association	6	12	72
South Washington Association	4	12	48
Georgia League	6	12	72
South Central League	6	12	72
Arkansas and Texas League	4	12	48
Kansas State League	6	12	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,626</b>

ing to rule at least 116 umpires must be provided. Nearly every league of consequence carries an extra umpire through the season, not because umpires ever actually are destroyed on the field of battle, but because it has been found advisable on many counts to adopt that policy. The number of extra umpires easily increases the total of the tribe in active service in a playing season to 130.

The pay of umpires varies in almost as great a degree as does the pay of players. The first-class umpire, of the class of O'Day, of the National League, and O'Loughlin, of the American League, ranks with the first-class player in the matter of salary.

It is a case of "chance" to the league in the matter of his expenses. In jumping from city to city he has the best accommodations the railroads can provide, and the league pays the bill; if there is a change for excess baggage, the league pays the bill; if he is late in arriving in a city where he is booked to perform, he dashes to the ball grounds in a carriage, and the league pays the bill; and the league allows him \$250 a day for hotel expenses. The salary of the frugal "ump" is nearly all velvet.

## What They Cost Per Head.

The pay of umpires in the National and American Leagues runs from \$2,000 to \$3,000 or more a season. Calling it \$2,500, the cost of each umpire to the big leagues shows up like this: Salary, \$2,500; railroad fare, including sleeping-car accommodations, \$500; hotel allowance for 160 days, \$400; total, \$3,400. Five umpires are employed at all times by the National and five by the American, so the cost to the two major leagues of a season's umpiring is \$34,000. The item of \$500 for railroad fare is taken from a big league umpire's actual expense account. President Pullman, of the National, was asked for the figures, but wouldn't furnish them.

Various systems of paying umpires are found in the minor leagues, but always the particularly competent man is favored by the league that is so fortunate as to have the benefit of his professional services. Most of the leagues pay their umpires by the month, but not all of them do. For example, the New York State League has this schedule. Single game, \$75; Saturday, \$150; railroad fare, including sleeping-car accommodations, \$100; when a game scheduled is not played, \$25. The annual report of the presi-

## "Brownie."

"The next time you block me, I'm going to toss you over the grandstand," is all he said, as he slowly walked over to the bench and sat down amidst the shouts of the crowd, as they applauded the work of the "Brownie."

"After Elberfeld went to Philadelphia, he kept up his pugnacious methods, and they grew distasteful to the Quakerites, who sent him to Detroit. The same thing happened to him there, and it was some little while before he could play again.

"He was hurt several times. Experience showed him that it was better to give and take, and when he had determined to do this he discovered that he could play shortstop just as well as third, with fewer opportunities to scrap; and then he landed on the New York team at short, where he is now playing. His hitting was always a feature of the game. If he could not hit the pitcher, he would let the pitcher hit him, and he carried a bruise on his left shoulder all season.

"Chesbro was rapidly developing during the season. The big leagues had their eyes on him, but we would not let him go. Stockdale went to the Southern League and Elsey went to the West. I do not know what

became of Thornton, McDonald and Stewart. They played good enough for minor leagues, and may be playing now. Schmidt is still at it and doing well, but he was never heavy enough to get into big company. Stimmell, I believe, is playing in New England.

"At that time Hargrove was one of the fastest outfielders in the business. He hurt himself, however, and was never able to recover and gain the lost ground. He was popular with the fans all over the circuit. Kain is still in the game doing fine work. This was shown last year, when he did so much for Portsmouth. He will play with Joe Judge, in the Tri-State League, this year. Foster was one of the mainstays at backstop, and was hitting like a fiend.

"With the remnants of this team and the new men we discovered at the close of the season, we soon got the championship team together, and won the pennant from Lancaster, with the boys you showed in The Times-Dispatch last week. There is still another fine team, the last of the Atlantic League. That is worth recalling, for the team was so strong it broke up the league, and we had to transfer our franchise to Syracuse, of the Eastern."

## Minor Leagues Pay Well.

The average pay of the umpires that serve the five Class A leagues and the Tri-State League is \$300 a month, or \$3,600 a season, with no traveling expenses allowed except to the occasional particularly competent man. Giving one extra umpire to each league, twenty-seven umpires are employed by the six leagues, and at \$1,500 each, they draw \$40,500.

The six Class B leagues, with their forty-four clubs, use about twenty-eight umpires, and at \$1,200 a piece, they cost \$33,600 for their season's work.

The six Class C leagues, with their thirty-eight clubs, use about twenty-five umpires, and at \$1,000 a piece, pay them \$25,000.

The next two remaining leagues must employ forty-six umpires, making no allowance for extra men, and pay them at \$800 a piece, \$36,800 in the aggregate for their season's work.

The season's cost of this one department of the game shows up like this:

Six Class A Leagues	\$34,000
Six Class B Leagues	33,600
Six Class C Leagues	25,000
All other leagues	35,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128,900</b>

## There Are Other Expenses.

There are many channels besides these thus far considered, in which the club owners must keep the stream of coin flowing steadily. Team managers must be paid, the league machinery must be kept in running order, provision must be made for ante-season training for the players, uniforms and balls must be bought, etc.

At least forty league clubs pay their managers \$2,000 a season, on the average, and at least twenty more league clubs pay their managers \$1,000 a season. This makes another little item of \$100,000. It is said that Lajoie, of the Cleveland Americans, has a contract that calls for \$21,000 for three seasons' services as player and manager, and that he received \$3,000 as a bonus when he affixed his signature to the contract. This probably is more than any other manager in the country receives, although McGraw, of the New York Nationals; Joe Cantillon, of the Washington Americans; and three or four others draw "big money."

The remuneration of league presidents runs all the way from \$15,000 a year down to a vote of thanks. Ban Johnson, whose nerve and perspicacity this makes down to the ranks of the minors and placed it on the level with the National, gets the \$15,000, and stands in a class by himself in the baseball world in respect of salary. Harry Pullman, of the National, is said to draw down \$10,000 a year. There probably are ten minor league presidents who receive \$2,000 a year

The List Shows That a Small Army of Players Are Employed on the Major and Minor Teams Throughout the States.

each and ten others whose pay is \$1,000 each. Each of the major leagues employs a secretary and maintains offices the year around, and for the strong minor leagues there is a considerable annual expense for clerk hire. Under this head should be placed, too, the cost of maintaining the National Commission, with its paid secretary, and the cost of maintaining the National Association of Professional Baseball Clubs, of which John H. Farrell, of Auburn, is the efficient head. So the cost of training up league organizations and allied interests is not far from \$750,000 each year.

## Before the Season Opens.

Spring training has come to require a large outlay by the club owners of the National and American Leagues. Not every bunch of players taken on a scenic-America excursion such as the Glenside and the White Sox are blown off to this spring, of course; yet all the big league clubs come in for something nearly as good. The owners have only themselves to blame that this is the case, but by the cheerful necessity which they pay the freight and hotel bills and the ground rent each spring, they seem to like it, and if the arrangement suits them, certainly no one else can have anything to say against it. It has been estimated that the cost of the spring training of a major-league team is \$6,000. This seems too low, in view of the large number of players in each squad and the cost in railroad fare of getting them together, but because of its origin it is not to be questioned. At \$6,000 each the cost of the spring training of the sixteen clubs of the National and American Leagues is \$96,000. No minor league approaches either of the major leagues in the matter of expenditure under this head, but good many of the minor league squads are gathered together for brief practice trips. It is safe to say that thirty minor league clubs pay out \$1,000 each in training expenses. Thus the total under this head may be placed at \$126,000.

Uniforms cost on the average not less than \$10 apiece, the price ranging from \$8 to \$15. Of the 3,026 players accounted for, at least half are provided with two uniforms each, making \$15,530 to be charged up for this item. If a team uses twenty dozen balls in a season, and pay \$15 a dozen for them, the cost is \$360. Some teams don't use as many as that, but other teams use many more, so twenty dozen seems a fair average. The manufacturer's list price, the sum total paid out for balls would be \$66,000 if the club owners were required to pay for all their use. But they are not required to pay for them. The manufacturer's list price gives away thousands of balls every season, and charge the gifts to advertising. Cut the apparent cost in two, making \$33,000, and you have about what the club owners pay out for balls.

## Money Spent in the Winter.

Even in the winter, when baseball parks are locked up and the players are out of the country, the club owners make a considerable contribution to the vast sum total that represents a year's cost of maintaining the national game. The club owners of every league, in fact, have their plans for the approaching season, and the amount they expend to railroad transportation and hotel accommodations is a good many thousands of dollars, taking the National League, for example. Nearly every club is represented by two men at these meetings and some are represented by four and five. The large number of club owners at a league meeting, the greater the attendance, the more the winter playing baseball politics, and next to the joy of unleashing a lemon on a brother magnate, a trade of players, your club owns places the joy of playing baseball politics.

While, as the facts here set forth show, the man in baseball has a large financial burden to bear, in an important particular he has an advantage over all other purveyors of entertainment. His expenses are paid by the great American people. The theatre manager, the promoter of racing, the men behind practically all other enterprises classed as "amusements," must pay large sums for newspapers to advertise their shows, for notices free of charge, and gets more of them than all the other fellows together buy. He gets the year around, too, and he can't tell them out fast enough. The American people demands a steady diet of baseball news, or "something just as good" (it isn't always possible to dish up actual news on demand), and the newspaper that didn't print it would be a fool. The man who provides the body in its community that knows what it wants insists on getting it. Summer or winter, your genuine baseball enthusiast, your "fan," "crank," "rooter" or whatever you call him, will read the reports of the games, his hope of the players or his tales of the plans of the magnates. The newspapers long ago recognized this condition and ceased to regard baseball as they regarded other enterprises conducted for profit.

## Receipts of the Club Owners.

Turning to the other side of the business end of baseball—that is, turning from expenditures to income—finds it impossible to use exact figures. They can't be got. Probably the president of each league has a fairly accurate knowledge at the end of a season of how much money the clubs' circuit have made or lost, but reports containing this information are issued. Covering baseball the count over, the general proposition may be advanced that the patrons of the game pay to the club owners a good many more dollars than the club owners it is necessary to pay out in providing the sport. That this is the case is owing to the immense revenue of the clubs of the National and American Leagues and the tidy profits of a stronger minor league clubs. Five seasons some of the clubs in the weak minor leagues are run at a loss, but the losses, taking all leagues into consideration, are always less by many thousands of dollars than the profit. The money-making power of a successful club in the National or American League are entitled to the highest respect. This applies not only to the pennant-winning clubs, but to clubs that stay in the "first division" for the better part of the season. Attendance figures tell the story. A careful estimate of the attendance in the

(Continued on Fourth Page.)